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Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes

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9-17-2010

## **Gulf Coast Faculty Council Minutes - September 17, 2010**

USM Gulf Coast Faculty Council

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## **GCFC Meeting Minutes**

### **Sept 17, 2010**

Members in Attendance: Dale Lunsford, Jennifer Vonk, Marlene Naquin, Casey Maugh, Scott Milroy, Douglas Bristol, Steve Jackson, Marco Wolf, Tom Osowski, Karen Rich, Jerry Coleman, Patrick Biber, Heather Annulis, Cynthia Chatham

Guests Present: Anita Davis (Faculty Senate President) and Frances Lucas (Vice President, Gulf Coast) present

Members Absent: Allisa Beck, Jack Covarrubias  
Jerry Coleman as proxy for Allisa Beck, Casey Maugh as proxy for Jack

Motion to not approve retreat minutes approved

Motion to approve July 9<sup>th</sup> minutes approved

#### **Faculty Senate Report**

- Resolution to offer sabbaticals
- Enhancing funding of library to enable research status,
- Faculty welfare resolution passed – benefits for those let go –
  - free tuition for partners and spouses for two years
  - for staff – 3 semesters full time tuition – extended to 4 semesters,
- Saunders opened up cabinet to faculty senate president – in previous years senate president did not attend executive cabinet meetings

#### **Success Team Report**

- Enrolment was initially the focus of concern – but 3% increase in enrolment – perhaps due to efforts by faculty and staff to register students. Enrolment not as much of a concern now.
- Development of apartment complex adjacent to campus with lease term commiserate with schedules.
- Insurance may be a sticking point. 10 acres right past residential but beachfront. International Exchange with Vietnam developer.
- General impression that things are getting done.
- University wide hiring freeze – just staff

#### **Academic Dean Advisory Committee Report**

- Disproportionate cost cuts – majors available, electives available?  
Furloughs – no final decisions have been made yet regarding furloughs for next year, or whether or not they will be tiered if implemented – the general hope is that use of a tiered system for furloughs will protect those making below a certain amount, for instance \$50K per annum
- Oct. 28 Staff Awards, Halloween contest

- Mini grants for coast faculty – research and teaching grants – announce requirements next week – travel, equipment, undergraduate student research, full time faculty, \$1000 per award

#### Committee Representatives Needed

Library – ask Allisa to represent coast on committee, to verify if needs to be Nonmember (of library), discussion regarding usefulness of committee etc.

Lead to discussion of problems with committees and travel to and from Hattiesburg and communication problems when using technology etc.

Anita mentioned that there is a committee for university relations – protocol for communications – failsafe system – skype, sound systems, transportation system, omni directional mic - \$30, - go to Dr Lucas as resolution from online committee

Saunders promised cameras for each dept for skype/wimba \$50-60 maybe \$30

Clickers for voting –chat on skype

Faculty senators are on committee for relations

ED-PSY member – survey – ask next two on the ballot- Marlene will provide names later and Jennifer will ask person with next highest votes if they will accept position on council – resulted in Holly Hulbert being elected to council

Faculty Council Membership - need for tenured person on council representation  
This issue remained unresolved

Some discussion about this not being necessary, as there would be no representation from faculty or council anyway on appeals committee

However, this issue does not relate to appeals alone, so will be revisited at next meeting.

#### Discussion of Appeals

- Appeals begin Oct. 4, largest programs 1<sup>st</sup>, heard by executive cabinet - min of 5 hearing report, chair of academic council, chair of grad council or designees attend as full voting participants, home departments may not participate but will designate appropriate substitute, president doesn't attend, endorse or overturn, provost attends, president of faculty senate will be there. Lucas will be there.
- Anita – program fit, moving a program to a different college may help strengthen the program
- Only ¼ cut programs were on UPC list – some discussion of potential misunderstanding of this statement – whether this means that executive cabinet did not follow UPC recommendations – only cutting ¼ of the programs that were designated as “weak” by UPC, or 25% of the programs that were cut were those that were recommended to be cut by the UPC does not mean that 75% of the cuts were those given high ratings by the UPC

- Ask for list – need to know why cut to launch appeal –asked for clarification as to why program in tier 5 would be cut – Lucas indicated that tier 5 programs were never considered “safe” from point of view of executive cabinet – did not provide any reason why they would be vulnerable in comparison to lower tier programs - Executive committee looked at all five tiers - but why?
- A lot of weight to number of students, graduates, - less weight to productivity b/c less means to assess that
- Article in Chronicle this week about value per professor
- Add uniqueness to program appeals
- Discussion of which coast programs were terminated and will need letters drafted from council: MIS – Dale only (Dale/Steve), Marine Sciences,(Scott/Heather) Political Sciences (Casey), Religion (Doug), Allied Health (Marlene), Paralegal, Criminal Justice – Tues – get info back from next week. Include Anita.
- Anita Davis will draft template letter from faculty senate to include for all programs who wish assistance with their appeals.
- No fear that if you save 1 person another will be cut – no other faculty can be let go this year b/c Sept 1 deadline has already passed – cuts will come out of other places:
- May be retirement incentives
- Staff attrition
- 60% of people named last year still here
- Action items: Send list of information to include in appeals out to programs for termination to get back by next Tuesday. Dale will send us documents for feedback and then take personally to members of terminated programs on following Tues (Sept 21<sup>st</sup>). Members of council agreed to contact each member to ask if they wished help from council with their appeals (see list above).

Meeting adjourned after running late without addressing all of the times on the agenda. Other items will be postponed to Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.